

Approved: August 17, 2020

**TOWN OF GIBRALTAR  
PARKS AND LANDS COMMITTEE  
TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2020  
MINUTES**

**Call to Order:** Hackbarth called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.

**Members Present:** Hackbarth stated that a quorum of the committee was present. Members present: Brian Hackbarth, Andrea Jauquet, and John Lancaster via Zoom Conference. Jayson Merkel and Laurie Buske in person.

Absent: None

**Proper Notice/Adopt Agenda:** Hackbarth verified the agenda had been properly noticed.

*Motion: (Merkel, Buske) to adopt the agenda as posted. Carried.*

**Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting:** *Motion: (Buske, Merkel) to approve the minutes from the May 19, 2020 meeting, as written. Carried.*

**Public Comment:** Buske reported that on May 4<sup>th</sup> Steve Sohns and his family did some clearing in Fish Creek Park and requests that maintenance staff clean the brush piles. Clean up needs to be done at Sunset Park and the beach.

Steve Sohns will address the issues at Sunset Park. He received a letter from the neighbor of Champagne Rock requesting the Park be closed. It needs to be cleaned up. Poison Ivy needs to be treated.

Jauquet thanked Sohns for looking into Sunset Park and encourages the Town to maintain all waterfront property. Jauquet reported there is a dead Maple tree in Clark Park.

**Committee Reports**

**Chair:** No report

**Gardens:** Buske reported all of the gardens are mulched. A lot of weeds this year. Pots were planted at a lower cost this year. An arborvitae behind the bathhouse is dying. A large pot will be placed outside the post office. Would like to thank the Town and maintenance staff for their assistance.

**Lighthouse:** Kelly reported the office coordinated with the Maritime Museum. They will provide volunteers to lead the hike from the dock and give the tours. The tower will be closed and tours of the interior will be self-guided. M. Blahnik will only need to attend to open and close. She will have little to no interaction with the visitors.

Jauquet spoke with Chris Cote. He is interested in looking into the work at the lighthouse.

Merkel suggested installing a lockbox at the lighthouse for better access.

**Invasive Species:** Garlic mustard and Dames Rocket are in bloom. Jauquet removed garlic mustard at Sunset Beach and needs large garbage bags.

Buske reported the Garlic Mustard has exploded in Sunset Park. It is going to seed right now and needs to be removed ASAP. Poison Ivy and burnweed along the trail needs to be treated.

**Ground Cover for New Medians in Highway:** Buske provided a proposal and recommends a low lying Juniper ground cover. Junipers do not require much care and can be planted in a shallow area. Merkel could see grass seed or some type of hard surface.

*Motion: (Jauquet, Lancaster) to plant blue rug juniper in the medians. Carried, Hackbarth and Merkel opposed.*

**Fencing in Fish Creek Park:** The fencing at FC Park has been damaged. Sohns suggests replacing all of the posts. The trail entrance into FC Park has been moved and adjustments will need to be made and

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suggests a setback from the sidewalk of 6 inches to 1 ft. Need to determine if maintenance staff will be able to do or if it needs to be contracted out.

*Motion: (Jauquet, Buske) to replace the split rail fence and posts w/ adjustment for the new trail entrance and 6 inches to 1 foot from the sidewalk. Carried.*

**Fish Creek Park Playground Equipment:** Buske is not in favor of the marked location in FC Park. Would like to have the small playground set put back up at the beach. Would like to look into other locations. Jauquet suggested the Town look into the collaborating with the YMCA or the school. Sohns suggested stations along the trail.

*Motion: (Merkel, Buske) to table. Carried.*

**Fish Creek Park Trail Adjustments/Review Recommendations:** The trail entrance to the parking lot needs to be adjusted. Sohns provided a map with recommendations. Merkel suggested moving the trail head 15-20 ft in, would only need to remove 2 dead ash trees. Any more than 10 ft to the east could affect the wetland delineation.

*Motion: (Jauquet, Buske) to accept Sohns' proposed trail adjustments, with new tree plantings. Carried. Merkel opposed.*

**Trail at Sunset Park Planning:** The committee took their first look at trail plans associated with the Waterfront Master Plan and the Streetscaping/Wayfinding Plan.

**Picnic Table Locations:** 6 new tables were purchased by the Town with support from FCCA. Locations were not determined.

*Motion: (Merkel, Buske) to place 2 at the beach, 1 at Clark Park, 1 at FC Park, 1 at Sunset, and 1 at Spruce. Carried.*

**Benches and Plantings along Sidewalk across from Beach:** A lot of people are out walking and enjoying the new sidewalks and Park properties. Two neighboring property owners are opposed to the proposed locations. Jauquet will reach out to the other neighbors.

**Reconsider Trash Receptacle Locations:** Buske would like to switch out the 2 receptacles at Sunset for a double unit. She suggested a trash can near Malibu Moos in Clark Park and one between Taco Cervesa and the Town Center.

*Motion: (Buske, Hackbarth) to have a double unit placed at Sunset, move the one from Sunset to Clark Park/Malibu Moos, install the mounted receptacle at Sunset Park mid-way through trail, and one between Hill St and the Town Center. Carried*

**Lawn Care Maintenance Weed Control:** The lawns are getting very weedy. The committee had changed courses a few years ago with natural fertilizing applications. Buske has concerns that the lawns need more than just weed treatment. It is a process, not a quick fix. Lawn needs to be cut shorter during the spring months. The window to treat has passed and suggests treating in the fall.

Buske will inspect the parks to determine specific needs and review the lawn care practices over the last few years. She will provide a recommendation next month.

**Adjourn:** *Motion: (Buske, Merkel) to adjourn at 9:26 AM. Carried*

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Murre  
Deputy Clerk